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EXAMINER

ESTRADA, MICHELLE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2823

DATE MAILED: 06/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/805,273	<b>Applicant(s)</b> YANG, WENGE	
	<b>Examiner</b> Michelle Estrada	<b>Art Unit</b> 2823	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 March 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 27-55 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 27-34 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 35-55 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 35, 44 and 52 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 35, 38, 44, 50 and 52-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mui et al. (6,037,265) in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA).

With respect to claim 35, Mui et al. disclose depositing a conductive layer (22) upon a substrate (14); depositing a conductive adhesive layer (16) between said substrate and said conductive layer, wherein said conductive adhesive layer has a minimum thickness required to provide adhesion between said substrate and said conductive layer for a robust structure that can withstand subsequent processing, furthermore, Mui et al. disclose that the thickness of the conductive adhesive layer would depend upon the end use of the semiconductor, which is to contain layer (16) (Col. 6, lines 6-10); and etching a portion of said conductive layer and a portion of said conductive adhesive layer utilizing a plasma (Fig. 5), wherein said plasma comprises an etchant, wherein said etchant comprises chlorine, wherein said plasma is ionized and

Art Unit: 2823

sustained by a first RF source (78), and wherein said plasma is accelerated by a second RF source (84) (Col. 8, lines 4-15 and Col. 10, lines 28-33).

Mui et al. do not disclose that the substrate comprises a silicon oxide-silicon nitride-silicon oxide (ONO) layer.

AAPA disclose depositing a tungsten or tungsten silicide layer (101) over a layer of polysilicon (102), which was previously deposited on the substrate (103); wherein the substrate could be an oxide, for example silicon oxide-silicon nitride-silicon oxide (ONO).

It would have been within the scope of one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Mui et al. and AAPA to enable the ONO substrate material of AAPA to be used in the process of Mui et al. because one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to look to alternative suitable materials to be used in the disclosed oxide substrate material of Mui et al. and art recognized suitability for an intended purpose has been recognized to be motivation to combine. See MPEP 2144.07. Furthermore, silicon oxide-silicon nitride-silicon oxide layer (ONO) forms a good bond with the polysilicon adhesive layer.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been led to the recited conductive adhesive thickness through routine experimentation to achieve a desired device dimension, device associated characteristics and device density on the finished wafer. See MPEP 2144.05. In addition, the selection of conductive adhesive thickness, it's obvious because it is a matter of determining optimum process conditions by routine experimentation with a limited number of species of result effective variables. These

Art Unit: 2823

claims are prima facie obvious without showing that the claimed ranges achieve unexpected results relative to the prior art range. In re Woodruff, 16 USPQ2d 1935, 1937 (Fed. Cir. 1990). See also In re Huang, 40 USPQ2d 1685, 1688 (Fed. Cir. 1996)(claimed ranges or a result effective variable, which do not overlap the prior art ranges, are unpatentable unless they produce a new and unexpected result which is different in kind and not merely in degree from the results of the prior art). See also In re Boesch, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA) (discovery of optimum value of result effective variable in known process is ordinarily within skill or art) and In re Aller, 105 USPQ 233 (CCPA 1995) (selection of optimum ranges within prior art general conditions is obvious).

Note that the specification contains no disclosure of either the critical nature of the claimed conductive adhesive thickness or any unexpected results arising therefrom. Where patentability is said to be based upon particular chosen conductive adhesive thickness or upon another variable recited in a claim, the Applicant must show that the chosen conductive adhesive thickness are critical. In re Woodruff, 919 F.2d 1575, 1578, 16 USPQ2d 1934, 1936 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

With respect to claim 38, Mui et al. disclose wherein the adhesive layer comprises polysilicon (Col. 5, line 30); and said conductive layer comprises tungsten silicide (Col. 5, line 32).

With respect to claim 44, Mui et al. disclose depositing a conductive adhesive layer (16) upon a substrate (14), wherein said substrate comprises silicon oxide (Col. 5,

Art Unit: 2823

lines 44-45); depositing a conductive layer (22) on said conductive adhesive layer, wherein said conductive layer comprises tungsten silicide (Col. 6, line 16) and wherein said conductive adhesive layer adheres said conductive layer to said substrate; forming a bit line gate by selectively etching a portion of said conductive layer and a portion of said conductive adhesive layer without sacrificing said substrate (See fig.5) utilizing a plasma, wherein said plasma comprises chlorine (Col. 8, lines 4-15 and Col. 10, lines 28-33), wherein an ion flux of said plasma is a function of a first power source (78) (Col. 11, lines 20-25), and wherein an energy of said plasma is a function of a second power source (84).

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been led to the recited conductive adhesive thickness through routine experimentation to achieve a desired device dimension, device associated characteristics and device density on the finished wafer. See MPEP 2144.05. In addition, the selection of conductive adhesive thickness, it's obvious because it is a matter of determining optimum process conditions by routine experimentation with a limited number of species of result effective variables. These claims are prima facie obvious without showing that the claimed ranges achieve unexpected results relative to the prior art range. In re Woodruff, 16 USPQ2d 1935, 1937 (Fed. Cir. 1990). See also In re Huang, 40 USPQ2d 1685, 1688 (Fed. Cir. 1996)(claimed ranges or a result effective variable, which do not overlap the prior art ranges, are unpatentable unless they produce a new and unexpected result which is different in kind and not merely in degree from the results of the prior art). See also In re Boesch, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA) (discovery of optimum value of result effective

variable in known process is ordinarily within skill or art) and *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233 (CCPA 1995) (selection of optimum ranges within prior art general conditions is obvious).

Note that the specification contains no disclosure of either the critical nature of the claimed conductive adhesive thickness or any unexpected results arising therefrom. Where patentability is said to be based upon particular chosen conductive adhesive thickness or upon another variable recited in a claim, the Applicant must show that the chosen conductive adhesive thickness are critical. *In re Woodruff*, 919 F.2d 1575, 1578, 16 USPQ2d 1934, 1936 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

With respect to claim 50, Mui et al. disclose wherein the adhesive layer comprises polysilicon (Col. 5, line 30).

With respect to claim 52, Mui et al. disclose depositing a polysilicon layer (16) upon an oxide substrate (14); depositing a conductive layer (22) on said polysilicon layer, wherein said conductive layer comprises tungsten silicide (Col. 6, line 16) and wherein said polysilicon layer has a thickness of at least 300 angstroms, which overlaps with the recited thickness (500 angstroms) to provide adhesion between said substrate and said conductive layer for a robust structure that can withstand subsequent processing, furthermore, Mui et al. disclose that the thickness of the conductive adhesive layer would depend upon the end use of the semiconductor, which is to contain layer (16) (Col. 6, lines 6-10); and selectively etching said conductive layer and said polysilicon layer without sacrificing said oxide substrate, to form said electrical

Art Unit: 2823

connection on said oxide layer, utilizing a decoupled plasma (Fig. 5 and Col. 10, lines 12-15), wherein said plasma comprises chlorine gas and oxygen gas (Col. 8, lines 28-32), wherein said plasma is ionized and sustained by an RF flux power source (78), and wherein said plasma is accelerated by an RF bias power source (84) (Col. 8, lines 4-15 and Col. 10, lines 28-33).

Mui et al. do not disclose wherein the oxide substrate comprises specifically a silicon oxide-silicon nitride-silicon oxide (ONO) layer.

AAPA disclose depositing a tungsten or tungsten silicide layer (101) over a layer of polysilicon (102), which was previously deposited on the substrate (103); wherein the substrate could be an oxide, for example silicon oxide-silicon nitride-silicon oxide (ONO).

It would have been within the scope of one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Mui et al. and AAPA to enable the ONO substrate material of AAPA to be used in the process of Mui et al. because one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to look to alternative suitable materials to be used in the disclosed oxide substrate material of Mui et al. and art recognized suitability for an intended purpose has been recognized to be motivation to combine. See MPEP 2144.07. Furthermore, silicon oxide-silicon nitride-silicon oxide layer (ONO) forms a good bond with the polysilicon adhesive layer.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been led to the recited conductive adhesive thickness through routine experimentation to achieve a desired device dimension, device associated characteristics and device density on the finished wafer.



Art Unit: 2823

See MPEP 2144.05. In addition, the selection of conductive adhesive thickness, it's obvious because it is a matter of determining optimum process conditions by routine experimentation with a limited number of species of result effective variables. These claims are prima facie obvious without showing that the claimed ranges achieve unexpected results relative to the prior art range. In re Woodruff, 16 USPQ2d 1935, 1937 (Fed. Cir. 1990). See also In re Huang, 40 USPQ2d 1685, 1688 (Fed. Cir. 1996)(claimed ranges or a result effective variable, which do not overlap the prior art ranges, are unpatentable unless they produce a new and unexpected result which is different in kind and not merely in degree from the results of the prior art). See also In re Boesch, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA) (discovery of optimum value of result effective variable in known process is ordinarily within skill or art) and In re Aller, 105 USPQ 233 (CCPA 1995) (selection of optimum ranges within prior art general conditions is obvious).

Note that the specification contains no disclosure of either the critical nature of the claimed conductive adhesive thickness or any unexpected results arising therefrom. Where patentability is said to be based upon particular chosen conductive adhesive thickness or upon another variable recited in a claim, the Applicant must show that the chosen conductive adhesive thickness are critical. In re Woodruff, 919 F.2d 1575, 1578, 16 USPQ2d 1934, 1936 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

With respect to claim 53, Mui et al. disclose wherein said selectively etching is conducted at a pressure of approximately 0.5 mTorr to 50 mTorr, which overlaps the recited range of claim 53 (2-4 mTorr).

With respect to claim 54, Mui et al. disclose wherein a flow rate of said chlorine is approximately 40 to 140 sccm, which overlaps the recited range of claim 54 (40-100 sccm); and a flow rate of said oxygen is approximately 4 to 70 sccm, which overlaps the recited range of claim 54 (4-12 sccm).

With respect to claim 55, Mui et al. disclose wherein said RF flux power source is approximately 200 to 1200 watts, which overlaps the recited range of claim 55 (800-1500 watts); and said RF bias power source is approximately 30 to 300 watts (preferred) and 30-100(optimum), which overlaps the recited range of claim 55 (50-150 watts).

Claims 36, 37, 39-43 and 45-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mui et al. in view of AAPA as applied to claims 35, 38, 44 and 50 above, and further in view of the following comments.

Mui et al. do not specifically disclose wherein said conductive adhesive layer has a thickness of approximately 10 to 500 angstroms; wherein said conductive layer and said conductive adhesive layer have a combined thickness of approximately 3000 angstroms or less.

With respect to claim 36, Mui et al. disclose wherein said conductive adhesive layer (16) has a thickness typically from 300 Å to about 8000 Å, the thickness of (16)

Art Unit: 2823

would depend upon the end use of the semiconductor, which is to contain layer (16) (Col. 6, lines 6-10). Mui et al. disclose a thickness range that overlaps the thickness range recited in claim 36 (10 to 500 angstroms).

With respect to claim 37, Mui et al. disclose wherein said conductive layer and said adhesive layer could have a combined thickness of approximately 3000 angstroms or less, this would depend on the thickness chosen for the polysilicon layer and the conductive layer.

With respect to claim 39, Mui et al. disclose wherein said etching is conducted at a pressure of approximately 0.5 mTorr to 50 mTorr, which overlaps the recited range of claim 39 (2-4 mTorr).

With respect to claim 40, Mui et al. disclose wherein a flow rate of said chlorine is approximately 40 to 140 sccm, which overlaps the recited range of claim 40 (40-100 sccm).

With respect to claim 41, Mui et al. disclose wherein a flow rate of said oxygen is approximately 4 to 70 sccm, which overlaps the recited range of claim 41 (4-12 sccm).

With respect to claim 42, Mui et al. disclose wherein said first RF source is approximately 200 to 1200 watts, which overlaps the recited range of claim 42 (800-1500 watts).

With respect to claim 43, Mui et al. disclose wherein said second RF source is approximately 30 to 300 watts (preferred) and 30-100(optimum), which overlaps the recited range of claim 43 (50-150 watts).

With respect to claim 45, Mui et al. disclose wherein said etching is conducted at a pressure of approximately 0.5 mTorr to 50 mTorr, which overlaps the recited range of claim 45 (2-4 mTorr).

With respect to claim 46, Mui et al. disclose wherein a flow rate of said chlorine is approximately 40 to 140 sccm, which overlaps the recited range of claim 46 (40-100 sccm).

With respect to claim 47, Mui et al. disclose wherein a flow rate of said oxygen is approximately 4 to 70 sccm, which overlaps the recited range of claim 47 (4-12 sccm).

With respect to claim 48, Mui et al. disclose wherein said first RF source is approximately 200 to 1200 watts, which overlaps the recited range of claim 48 (800-1500 watts).

With respect to claim 49, Mui et al. disclose wherein said second RF source is approximately 30 to 300 watts (preferred) and 30-100(optimum), which overlaps the recited range of claim 49 (50-150 watts).

With respect to claim 51, Mui et al. disclose wherein said conductive layer has a thickness of preferably 500 to 2400 angstroms and most preferably 800 to 2000 angstroms, which overlaps the recited range of claim 51 (1500-2500 angstroms).

### ***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michelle Estrada whose telephone number is 571-272-1858. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Olik Chaudhuri can be reached on 571-272-1855. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2800.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

Art Unit: 2823

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



George Fourson  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2823



MEstrada  
May 31, 2005